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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

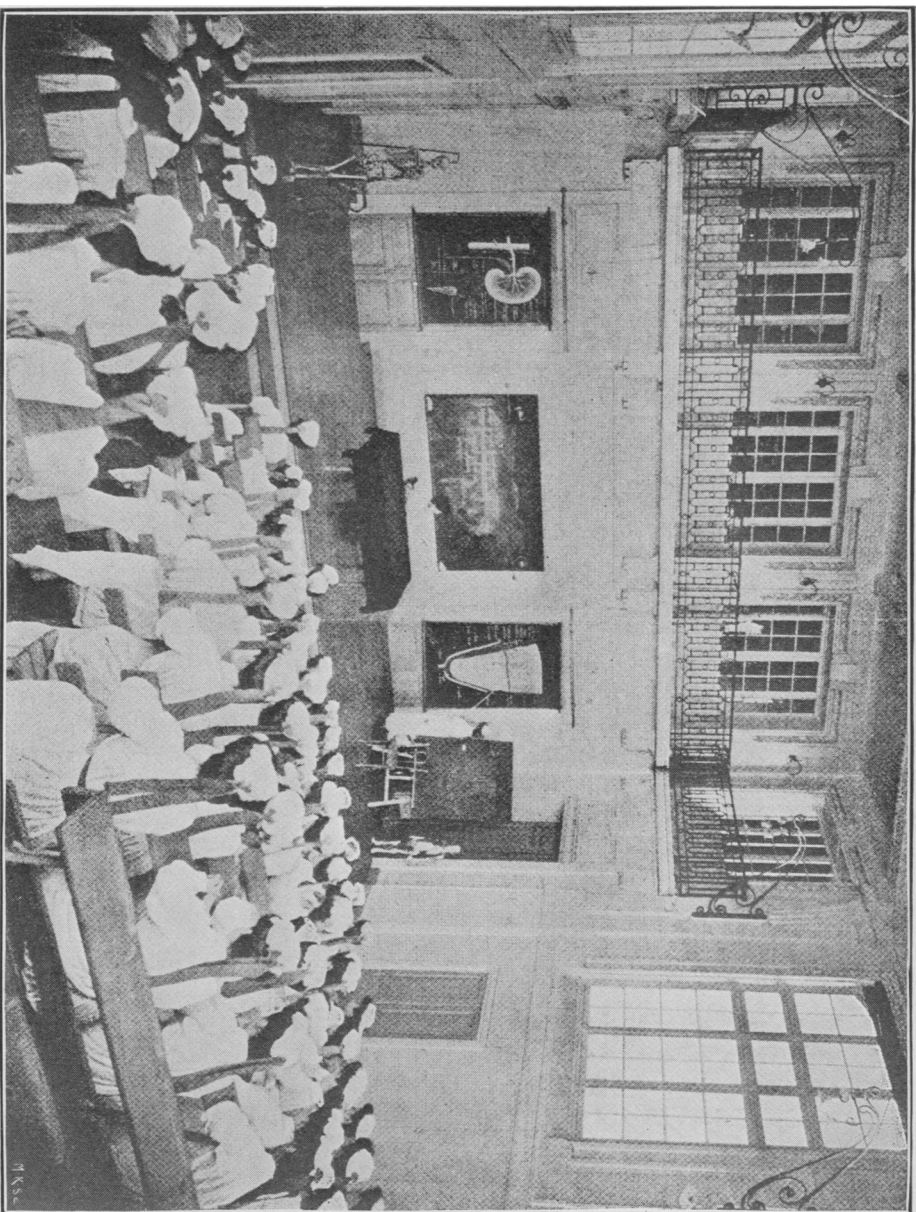
THE unexpected and terrible death of Mrs. Robb will cause sorrow among our foreign members. Had she lived, she would doubtless have become as closely identified with educational questions abroad as she had always been at home. It is a moving and mournful recollection that the international committee on nursing education owed its formation to Mrs. Robb, who read, at the London Congress, one of her peculiarly characteristic papers, full of large plans and stimulating suggestions of a world-wide uniformity in minimum standards, and to Miss Isla Stewart, who, with equal largeness of vision and sympathy, and with a practical definiteness of grasp amounting to genius, immediately offered the resolution which created an international committee with Mrs. Robb as its chairman. Mrs. Robb's subsequent travels and numerous home obligations delayed somewhat the first steps of this committee, but during the past winter she had named as its secretary Miss Van Lanschot Hubrecht, whose fitness for the task is conspicuous and whose interest in it is intense, and the first questionnaire of the committee was in process of completion.

The great loss to the nursing profession at large, in being deprived so suddenly and within so short a time of the services of these two exceptional leaders, both so alike in their catholic breadth of interests, will delay and perhaps for a time discourage the work of the international committee.

THE NEW SCHOOL AT THE SALPÊTRIÈRE

WE are indebted to the kind thoughtfulness of M. André Mesureur for a most attractive and interesting report of the new school for nurses in Paris, under the direction of the city department of hospitals and charities, as we would call it.

The report gives a complete history of the progress of the very delicate and difficult problem of remodelling the system of nursing existent in the vast and numerous hospitals of Paris. We have before now designated this problem as the most difficult one in the whole nursing



LECTURE AMPHITHEATRE OF THE NEW SCHOOL IN PARIS.

world at present, chiefly by reason of the centralized management of the Paris hospitals, their control by the government, the enormous number of patients and nurses involved, and the entire absence of women superintendents of nursing in the hospitals. The administration desires to purify the morale of the wards, improve the nursing, and elevate the status of the nurses, but to do this without fundamentally altering the established system, which is entirely different to ours, in that the aim there is to train nurses who will remain for years or even for a lifetime in the service of the hospitals.

If, though, there was to be no acute revolution in the wards proper, the erection and functioning of the beautiful new school has been a revolution of the first water for Paris, and the report shows very gratifying success and reasons for encouragement. The social and educational qualifications of the applicants have risen distinctly, as was to be expected when a refined and beautiful home and dignified position were offered. The school is under the direction of a very able and personally gifted woman, Mme. Jacques, whose only fault, in our eyes, is that she has not had the nurse's training; and its repute and honor are jealously guarded by M. G. Mesureur, the director general, and his son, M. André Mesureur, who is the head of the training-school committee.

The pupils, entering for two months' probation, are put through a two-year training, but sign a five-year contract. After this, though then free to leave, they are encouraged to join the permanent staff on salary, with living expenses and a pension.

During the first year they spend the five morning hours in the wards, the rest of the day being given to class, study, and domestic work in the school, where they have already had preparatory teaching during the probation period. The second year sees them in the wards all day, and taking a share in night duty. Their rotation in the different services has been made the object of careful arrangement and its importance seems to be thoroughly understood by M. Mesureur. This is very fortunate, for the general unwillingness of medical chiefs and hospital directors abroad to allow their nurses to rotate is a great obstacle to good training.

All the work of the school, except the cooking, floor scrubbing, and window washing, is performed by the pupils as a part of their training, and also as an economy. This we find open to criticism. We believe that pupil nurses should learn practically every detail of the housework which they will some day have to direct, but think it would be better to give them this in their preparatory course and let them spend their whole day in the wards afterwards.

The details of the care of the pupils are well thought out, and one

point worthy of imitation is that they are provided with dental as well as medical care when needed.

For their training they are sent to different hospitals, fifteen in all being mentioned as utilized for this purpose. The Superintendent of the School, it must be remembered, has no corresponding authority inside the wards.

After training, the breveted pupils are placed for the next three years wherever there are vacancies to be filled. Nor does the administration, apparently, intend grouping them or staffing one hospital system at a time with them. It is in this retention of a hospital system which seems to us essentially bad that we must disagree firmly with the administration. To our ideas, lasting good results inside the wards can only come by frankly adopting the English system. A trained woman head in each hospital in full charge of the nursing; the best graduates of the school put in as head nurses of wards; other good ones in permanent positions as ward or senior nurses; the probationers given to this trained staff for their practical work;—this, taking one hospital at a time, would be our suggestion for the completion of the revolution so splendidly begun in Paris by the new school.

Looking back at the wonders that have already come to pass, we congratulate the administration in the full belief that its work will bring laurels to it. How sad it is, though, that M. Montreuil, who had such a perfect spirit about the new methods, and who was so interested in nurses and nursing, so scholarly, fatherly, and kind, came to retire just as the new school was about to open! Wherever he is, we send him our greetings, and like to remember the Salpêtrière under his benign sway.

ITEMS

THE German Nurses' Association has founded a branch in Baden. The branch in Saxony has published its first annual report.

ANOTHER book written by a German nurse has been published, of which Sister Agnes says it ranks among the best that has been written of the actual life of nurses and conditions of nursing in their work. It is called *Step Children of the Social Economy* and should enlighten many as to the needless hardships of the lives of German nurses.

THE *Nursing Journal of India* says editorially: "One of the first duties of our association will be to seek admission to the International Council and then to appoint four delegates to represent us at Cologne." A warm welcome will be given to India in 1912.

THE first number of a new nursing journal for Belgium, called *L'Infirmière, Organe des Ecoles belges d'Infirmierie laïque*, has reached us. It is an attractive publication, and represents the advanced progressive party in Belgian nursing affairs,—Miss Cavell, Dr. Ley, and others. Its purpose is to carry on a propaganda in behalf of modern ideals of nursing as a skilled profession calling for the finest type of woman.

WOMAN suffrage is making great progress in France, and we are glad to see that the *Bulletin professionnel des Infirmières et Gardes-Malades* has given several pages to a résumé of the movement, as an important social movement which all women should be acquainted with.

THE Bordeaux nurses have formed a league in affiliation with the Union of the Gironde and a national society whose work is to carry on the warfare against alcoholism.

CANADIAN nurses are again pushing the question of state registration to the front, in the hope of stirring the Parliament of Ontario to take some steps in the matter.

IN England three thoroughly qualified certificated nurses have been appointed Inspectors of Poor Law Infirmaries and Schools.

The Journal of the Royal Victorian Nurses' Association has given, month by month, for some little time past full reports of an occurrence in association affairs which space does not permit us to explain, but, as fundamental principles of honor and professional ethics are involved we shall say, for the sake of giving moral support to the right as we see it, that in our judgment Miss Brayshay and her party have taken the just and honorable position of rectitude, and that the others have erred decidedly, though, we quite believe, without thinking all the way through the thing at the outset, as they should have done.

CHEERING accounts of successful beginnings in the new school in Rome must wait until next month.

MOTHER ST. GEORGE, of the Convent of the Faithful Virgin at Norwood, and who was one of the ten Sisters of Mercy who went with Miss Nightingale to the Crimea in 1854, has recently celebrated her diamond jubilee as a Sister. She is still active and in good health, and wrote to Miss Nightingale last year.